# Central China Record

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Nov.-Dec., 1904

According to your faith be it unto you

Prayer-cycle of our Mission. 1 Sam. 12:23

MONDAY, CHINKIANG

TUESDAY, NANKING

WEDNESDAY, WUHU

THURSDAY, KIUKIANG

FRIDAY, NANCHANG

SATURDAY, CHIENCHANG

SUNDAY, THE ENTIRE MISSION

### Annual Meeting Number

The thirty-second annual session of the Central China Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church was opened by Bishop Bashford in Sleeper Memorial Chapel, Nanking, Thursday, December 8th, 1904 at 8:30 A. M. The Bishop delivered an inspiring address, after which, assisted by several Elders, he administered the Lord's Supper.

The roll was called by the secretary of the preceding meeting and fortythree responded.

Officers for the session were elected as follows :-

Frederick G. Henke English Secretary. Chiang Ming-chi Chinese Secretary. John F. Wilson T'sü T'sin-ch'en Wilbur F. Wilson Statistical Secretaries. Treasurer. Spencer Lewis

Interpreters. Geo. A. Stuart

The daily sessions of the conference began at 8.30 A.M. and closed at 12 M. At the opening of each, Bishop Bashford delivered an address to the native workers. The theme of these addresses was a study giving the correspondence between the beatitudes and the Lord's prayer. The spirit of joyfulness-joy in service—was emphasized and surely exemplified in all Bishop Bashford said and did throughout the Conference.

After the addresses the regular business sessions of the General Board convened while the women adjourned to the Y.M.C.A. building and held their meetings. The afternoons were spent in committee and mission sessions, the evenings in prayer meetings.

#### Selections from Reports

Statistics can never measure the spread of the Gospel by Medical Work, yet we give the following.

In the Woman's Ward seventeen give evidence of having been saved, joyfully returning to their homes to tell the glad tidings.

No patients have come to our Woman's Ward but have studied and committed a portion of Scripture. Our aim has been to teach a few essential truths well. Some of the women have learned three or four different songs being able to recite all the verses of each song, and we trust that they will sing these songs over and over into the ears of the Chinese about them until they too shall say, "Jesus loves me, this I know."

CHRISTIA W. HALL.

We are beginning to realize some of the results for which we have been working during these years, in that, by preparing a very thorough course in the elements of English in our preparatory school the students who graduate into college are able to take the whole college course in English and pursue with understanding such branches as logic, psycho-This, as all may see, is logy, &c. of inestimable benefit, as it will be many years, if ever, before there will be translations sufficient in any of the advanced studies to do any satisfactory research work in Chinese.

W. F. WILSON.

The educational work of the Mission has had a good year, the best of all being the gracious revival which occurred in the Nanking

schools in April. One reaches here the very fountains of influence, and if our schools are the centers of revival power the whole field will feel it. The Theological school in charge of Mr. Rowe has grown in numbers and we trust that what we now have is but the earnest of greater things in the future. A trained and spiritual ministry is of vital importance to all our work.

There is little need to speak of the evangelistic work, as it will doubtless be fully reported by the Presiding Elders. There has been growth in some places, but the Mission is weak in this branch of the work. There is sore need of reinforcements and strong pushing of this line of effort. Above all, what missionaries and native preachers need is a mighty baptism of the Holy Spirit.

SPENCER LEWIS, Superintendent.

This year has only served to deepen the conviction that a pure Church in China can only come at the price of eternal vigilance. The effort is continually made by evil and unprincipled men to use the supposed power of the Church within or without the native courts in a way that can only work evil, and which will bring upon us the hatred of the very people we are seeking to teach. If we relax for one minute our vigilance, that moment will be fraught with evil consequences for the Church . . .

"I am not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God unto salvation." This year and all the years in China have emphasized this, and convinced me that to cause the Church to grow it is only necessary to preach earnestly by word and life this Gospel. The

Gospel is the only cure for sin; and when it is preached, it is as efficacious in China as elsewhere to save men from the power of sin. The great need in all our work is more sincere, earnest preaching and living of the Gospel of Christ.

HARRY F. ROWE.

and permanent basis. If these results are realized, all the suffering and chastening we have endured as individuals and as a Mission will not have been in vain. May the Lord grant the light of His countenance upon us.

EDWARD JAMES.

From September 18 to October 2, inclusive, was spent in convention of all the preachers of the two Kiangsi Districts, meeting in Nanchang. The work consisted of Bible study, Homiletics, and discussion of some themes vitally affecting our life and work. Two sessions were held each day, after which there was public preaching in each of the chapels. We have reasons to believe that this has been perhaps not the least important and benenficial part of our year's work.

By the middle of October, Brother Lewis had arrived, and with Brother J. F. Wilson we all started again on a tour of both Districts. This gave us just five weeks of travel, during much of the time making forced marches. Again we saw almost every piece of property in any way owned or operated by our Church in these Districts, omitting only a few remote places for lack of time. The journey was about 2000 li.

From all these travels, and toils, and investigations at first hand, we hope that plans are forthcoming whereby God shall be glorified, the honor of Christ's Church maintained, a satisfactory settlement of the property question be effected, justice be given where any wrong has been done, and methods inaugurated for settling and prosecuting the true work of the Church on substantial

In going from place to place it is remarkable to meet some and hear of hundreds more who have bought copies of the New Testament and have had some connection with our Society. It is pathetic to see the ignorance displayed among these same people concerning salvation and the contents of the books which they have in their possession. Preaching may bear its fruit for the Kingdom, but I don't believe the masses understand much of what is said even by our native pastors. Knowing what is said is not understanding, by any means. A preacher of the present should be a teacher as well, have classes, and instruct the members and their children in the Kingdom of Christ.

J. F. WILSON.

The contract for a small dispensary, which we were about to let, will now be postponed, owing to our call to Wuhu; but the new house for the South Kiangsi District is practically finished and the addition to our compound has been purchased and walled in. This addition completes the site for a large hospital which we hope to see built in the near future, and also sufficient room for a physician's residence.

M. R. CHARLES.

#### CENTRAL CHINA RECORD

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#### EDITORS

Advertising Editor, John F. Wilson,

Kiukiang.

Managing Editor, Wilbur F. Wilson,

Nanking.

It is not unfitting at this juncture to offer a tribute of praise to certain of the pastor's wives, most of them girls from some one of our Girls' Schools, who, in sharp contrast to the great throng on the streets, keep their homes clean, tidy, and attractive. May God bless them, and call up many to follow their example! The time will then soon come, when the sons and daughters of China will join with the rest of the world in singing, "There's no place like home!"

FREDERICK G. HENKE.

Dr. G. A. Stuart, President of Nanking University, writes:—

"When I made my last report we were in process of enlarging our campus and were building Cooper Hall. The purchase of the pieces of land that we desired to have was consummated and the grounds are gradually assuming a useable condition. We now have about fifteen acres under wall, and this tract will afford us room for the completion of our plans. The effect of the enlarged space is already observable upon the students in an increased interest iu athletics and physical culture. That this is a great boon to a class of persons peculiarly subject to tuberculosis and physical deterioration, will readily be understood. Our supply of gymnasium and athletic apparatus is still incomplete, but we are hoping that some one will complete the work so admirably commenced by our lamented brother and friend, Willis W. Cooper. The Cooper Hall, which now serves as a memorial to this brother's faithful stewardship, proves its usefulness every day. In it are our gymnasium and reading rooms, and these are in constant demand by the students. It is in regard to this building that Mr. Harlan P. Beach said: 'The best investment of \$2,500 for the good of China I consider to be that of the late W. W. Cooper at Nanking, where a building costing that sum is the center of wholesome influence among the sons of high officials and other students of that province."

Dr. C. F. Kupfer, President of Wm. Nast College, writes:—

"On October first, the Institution was incorporated at Cincinnati under the statute laws of the State of Ohio, with a representative Board of Trustees. This being accomplished, it is hoped that a permanent Endowment Fund will soon be secured, so that the Institution will no longer be an encumbrance upon the regular appropriations to the Mission. A good beginning has

already been made. The first gift of a thousand dollars was from Mrs. Fanny Nast Gamble. Others have been following her good example.

The problem of Western Learning is now upon us in full earnest. China has awakened from her forty century slumber and is rubbing her eyes as she sees, phantom like, the "Coming New China." Amid her efforts to meet these new conditions, she is reeling and staggering, advancing and retrograding. Reform and anti-reform literature is being scattered broadcast. Reform and antireform schools are being established everywhere—three in Kiukiang. Truly, God's stern winnower, the Crisis of a Nation, is upon her. Truth and Falsehood are striving for mastery, and it rests with the Church to say which shall win. . . Oh these national transition periods! Their importance for the Redeemer's Kingdom are beyond all calculation. Would that the Church felt her obligation and saw her opportunity! Let no one think that China is moving too slowly. The time has fully come when "the King's business requireth haste" in China."

## Report of Committee on the State of the Church

Your committee, carefully considering the tendencies and needs of the Christian Church throughout this great field, indicate our thought in the following matters:—

I. As to the use of opium and wine, the customs of foot binding and infant betrothal, we are steadily opposed, as being derogatory to the individual, the State, and the Church. We believe also that the minimum age for marriage of girls should be eighteen years.

As to probationers. Every Exhorter and Local Preacher in charge of a work must consult with the Class Leaders and Stewards and the Presiding Elder as to those received into or dropped from probation. All probationers must be received in public. Only those should be accepted as probationers who evidence sincere desire to know God in the salvation of their souls. The probationers' list should be carefully revised at each Quarterly Meeting. In the case of adults, baptism and admission to full connection should be at the same time. The communion should not be given to any one not baptized. All candidates for probation must have some satisfactory conception of the meaning of salvation; and those for baptism must pass examination in, and have an intelligent apprehension of, the fundamental doctrines of the Scriptures, with the Articles of Faith and General Rules of our Church.

III. The problem of self-support is pressing. We believe we can healthfully grow into this by educating all our people into appreciation of its need and blessedness. All members should be plainly taught their responsibility and privilege in this. (2.) All probationers should clearly understand what is expected and required of them, according to their abilities. (3.) We will not solicit contributions, nor accept extraordinary gifts, under any circumstances from other persons, but those who desire may freely give in the usual collections, or subscribe according to our regular rules. Every Circuit with as many as a hundred members and probationers ought to be entirely self-supporting.

Our Circuit Evangelistic Work has not kept pace with the development of our institutions. Hence

arise two deplorable conditions. (1.) We have no sufficient Christian constituency to make the best of our institutions. (2.) We are not able to follow up and conserve the influence initiated in many places by the work of our institutions. Thus we are losing from both sides what might otherwise turn to great advantage. We are overwhelmed with the extent of our field and the fewness of the workers; and we greatly need several more Missionaries for the Circuit Evangelistic Work.

Nor can this work of evangelizing proceed far or safely until there is undertaken a general, definite, and constant evangelistic work for women by women. The least number should be one foreign woman evangelist for each District.

V. Through the years we continue losing an alarming number of those enlisted for the service of the Church as preachers, because of (1) insufficient care in selecting; (2) putting men into positious of risk and responsibility they were not prepared for; (3) no adequate provision for their mental and spiritual stimulus; (4) infrequent visitation and insufficient oversight from the Mis-Whatever tends to desionaries. crease these dangers, improve the tone of our ministry, and conserve men to the work, demands our attention.

Committee Spencer Lewis Edward James Li Yüin-shen Ella C. Shaw Harry F. Rowe.

#### Notes from the Annual Meeting

Rev. J. A. Johanson of the West China Mission was a visitor at Nanking during the Annual Meeting, on his way back to his station after a furlough at home.

We were pleased to have Mrs. Bashford in our midst during these few days. She was a source of help and inspiration to all.

Rev. J. E. Williams, Mr. C. H. Robertson, Rev. W. A. Estes and Mrs. Harriet Shimer were visitors one morning.

The W. F. M. S. has gained new recruits this year, — Miss Grace Crooks, for Chinkiang, Misses Edith Crane and Alice Peters, for Nanking, and Miss Anna Stone for Kiukiang.

Bishop Bashford's daily addresses to the native workers proved a great blessing to many, as did also his sermons on Sunday.

The next Annual Meeting is to be held at Chinkiang.

The Bishop announced the transfer of A. J. Bowen from the Foochow Conference to the Central Illinois Conference.

Our meeting was saddened by the thought that three of our members were unable to be with us because of illness, and many prayers were offered that our beloved fellow-workers, Mrs. Beebe, Mrs. Hart, and Mr. Maclean, might be speedily restored to health.

One hundred and thirty-six students were in attendance at William Nast College during the past year.

H.

#### Our New Bishop

At this our first session of Annual Meeting with Bishop Bashford we are inclined to like him. He is not a demonstrative man, but one of evident reserve power; not a howling preacher, storming the skies, but one

who gets into the hearts of his theme and his hearer; not of blustering, overpowering presence, but of countenance that wins and manner that holds. His forte is evangelism (which we all need); but he also has advanced plans for educational and medical work (the reasonableness and desirability of which are apparent). He has been engaged in educational work for many years, and has not studied pedagogical psychology in vain.

Fortunately he has not been caught in any one's net, and seems quite open minded on all matters presented. We do not want to blow him up too much, (nor ourselves), but we have a general feeling of satisfaction, and we believe it will grow.

We are glad to find Mrs. Bashford a thoroughly helpful woman, of consecrated culture, experience, and sense. Bishop and Mrs. Bashford have now gone on to West China. May they be a blessing wherever they go! From progress already made, and evident intent to study the Chinese language, perhaps at our next session we shall have the great joy of a Bishop who is part and parcel of us, and who enters with full sympathy into all the proceed-Thus we should have much of the advantage of a Missionary Bishop with all the advantages of a General Superintendent.

E. J.

#### The Women's Conference

The sessions of the Women's Conference are increasing in interest from year to year and we note a marked advance in the ability and earnestness of the native workers as they gather together to recall the

work of the past year and to consider plans for advancing the Kingdom. This year there were delegates from Nanchang, Kiukiang, Wuhu, Chinkiang, and some of the country stations near Nanking. The program committee had arranged for two sessions to be conducted entirely by the Chinese workers. At one of these meetings the subject "Making Christian Homes" was eagerly discussed and at the other the question, "If you had but fifteen minutes with a woman who had never heard the gospel what would you tell her?" was considered with interest.

On Saturday afternoon a reception was given to the members of both conferences and in connection with it was an industrial exhibit from all the girls' schools in the mission. Specimens of kindergarten work, drawing, English and Chinese writing, embroidery, lace, knitting, crocheting, and other handiwork gave proof of the industry and alility of the pupils.

Miss Ogborn presided ably at all the business sessions of the conference. In the reports especial attention was given to the needs of each station and afterwards earnest prayer was offered that these needs might be supplied. A memorial service was held for Mrs. Skidmore and Mrs. Davis and while our hearts were sad at the thought that they would no longer be with us to aid us by their counsel and love, yet we gained much inspiration as we were told how they had overcome obstacles by their faith and courage, and we know that they are now rejoicing over the fruit of their labors.

Mrs. Bashford addressed the conference one morning and inspired us all to look more for the beautiful in everyone whom we meet. The

closing service was also led by Mrs. Bashford and she gave to us the lesson which had come to her when she saw the city wall. "Thou shalt call thy walls Salvation and thy gates Praise." "Praise" was the keynote of the meeting, and many testimonies were given from hearts full of thanksgiving for the blessings received during these days of meeting together.

E. C. S.

The Annual Meeting of our Mission is just past. We look back to it and forward to what it promises with joy and hope. For weeks the Mission had been praying for a spiritual blessing and that the difficult problems with which we were face to face might be satisfactorily solved. Our prayers were abundantly answered.

It is the custom to say that the Bishop was all that we had hoped for, but from the heart we can say that Bishop Bashford, by his almost intuitive understanding of our problems, by his wise handling of them, and by his fresh and earnest exposition and exemplification of the divine life, won our hearts and wonderfully helped us all. It was a time of spiritual blessing for the Chinese preachers as well as for the foreign workers. They were able to go back home carrying priceless treasurers, the fragrance of the "Rose of Sharon" and of the "Lily of the Valley," into the poverty and desolation in the midst of which they live. For had they not, around the altar, looked anew on His face, learning anew that "in Him there is fullness of life"? How we wish our friends in America could have heard some of the testimonies at the Love Feast and some of the prayers at the altar.

We were all helped to see in a new light the importance of the work we are trying to do, and were given to see more clearly than ever that Christ is the source of a sufficient strength for our needs.

Some of our problems seems in a fair way to be settled once for all, and that will allow us more time and energy to employ in giving the Gospel to the 100,000,000 who are within the bounds of our conference, What a little band we are to be facing such a multitude! Is it any wonder there is no great movement yet among the Chinese? God knows we are too few to even distribute the loaves and fishes were He to multiply what we have so that it would be enough for all. But if the church will only make possible the preaching of the Gospel to all this people we will not need to wait long for God to move nor for the people to be moved upon. But we are going to our appointments with a new feeling of responsibility and with more earnest prayers that the Lord of the Harvest will give it to us to gather in some sheaves this vear.

H. F. R.

## Remarks on the Annual Meeting Regrettable Absence

Five of the brethren who have for years ungrudgingly taken their share of the activities and burdens of the Annual Meeting were noticeable by their absence. Sickness and furlough are two pretty constant factors affecting the number on the acting field force at any given time. And it ought to be fully understood, in its practical bearings, that, of a force of, say eighteen, because of these two factors there will be at

least three off all the time, and occasionally four or five.

There is no guarantee of the health of a Missionary. But especially does it sometimes seem to us a shortsighted policy to go to the expense of sending a man to the field and preparing him for effective service, only to kill him off, or quickly invalid him home, by heaping burdens upon him, and demanding work from him, that ought to be divided between two or three men.

#### THE PROGRAM.

A good and full program had been arranged by the Nanking Missionaries, but it could not all be carried The Bishop preferred his talk in the morning, and we all found these talks a good introduction to the work of the day, and generally profitable. (We were glad to see also members of other Missions availing themselves of the time.) So were the evening prayer-meetings for foreigners. There is slight difference of opinion on two matters, (1) whether it is not better to have more purely religious meetings of foreigners and natives together; and (2) whether a given series of meetings, afternoon or evening ought not to be in charge of one leader throughout.

The concert on Monday evening, comprising Miss White's "report," was eminently successful. We cannot go into detail of the excellence of individual numbers. Nor is it by any means "love's labor lost" to give such an evening to such a company. Of course most of us do not understand and appreciate the fine points and difficult passages, but that hour of immersion in melody is a baptism with which we all need to be baptized; and because of which

we are all stronger and better. We hope that this has become a permanent part of the "reports."

Brother Lewis' Chinese dinner on Tuesday, after the close of the Meeting, was also a happy thought well expressed; and was the occasion of pleasure and profit.

E. J.

#### Notes

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur F. Wilson, Nanking was gladdened Dec. 14th 1904, by the birth of a little danghter, Julia Henrietta.

Miss Maddock for Wuhu reached China just in time to be of inestimable service to Mrs. Hart, remaining with her during her stay in the hospital in Shanghai.

Dr. and Mrs. Charles moved to Wuhu early in December to take charge of the hospital.

Miss Deavitt's appointment was changed at Annual Meeting from Wuhu to Kiukiang.

A very delightful feature of Annual Meeting is the music and the evening following the closing session a concert was given under Miss Laura White's special direction. A unique part of this concert were the anthems rendered by Chinese boys and girls together, a decided innovation for China.

Miss Alice Peters, Central China's latest recruit is gifted with a rare and beautiful voice and delighted foreigners and natives alike with her solos.

Miss Edith Kupfer is assisting her father in his work in the William Nast College.

Mrs. Longden and Mrs. Kupfer, after an absence of several years with their children at home, again join their husbands on the field.

#### Nanchang Beings and Doings

The Baldwin Memorial Girls' School, under direction of Miss Ogborn, begins its second year under conditions promising far beyond original expectations. Not one of the girls of last year has failed to return, except one whose family has moved away. In addition, some eight new students have been added, bringing the number up to thirty-two, or more. This certainly is a fine beginning; and, if such were needed, is testimony to the time-liness of this form of Christian work.

This Province, Kiangsi, is much wealthier than some other Provinces, and the masses of people are much better off than those along the great river; and the effect of this is felt

in the school in a good class of students, with more and better paying ones. Quite a number of the girls are from what are usually called "families of standing," whether officials, merchants, or literati.

The new residence on our compound grows apace, and is expected to be ready for occupancy by the foreign New Year. Through good management not a hitch or delay of any kind has yet been experienced. Brother J. F. Wilson will occupy it, and Dr. Charles too, temporarily, until the physician's residence is built. That this should not be long delayed in the opening up and pushing of our medical work in the midst of this mighty city is axiomatic.

The site for the dispensary and what will be one wing of the completed hospital has at last been secured, and building operations are about to begin. By the exceedingly tactful negotiations of Dr. Charles, river frontage has been secured sufficient for two more foreign residences for less than half the amount of money formerly offered and refused for much less frontage.

#### PLEASE NOTICE

We are requested by our Publishers, Messrs Lacy and Wilson to announce that information has been received from America to the effect that the issue of the new union hymn book by our own and the Southern Methodist Churches has been delayed for some months and it will not appear much before the end of the year 1905.

## MISSIONARIES OF THE CENTRAL CHINA MISSION WITH THEIR PRESENT ADDRESS.

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Nanchang-fu.

Nanchang-itt.

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Rev. H. F. Rowe, Nanking.

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